

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A solid shear panel for supporting a building structure  
5 having a base support and horizontal overhead structure,  
comprising:
  - an upper edge for positioning beneath the horizontal  
overhead structure;
  - a lower edge for positioning upon the base support  
10 secured to a sill plate above ground level;
    - two side edges;
    - a plurality of vertically extending support posts having  
the same length and extending fully between the lower edge  
and upper edge, the vertically extending support posts each  
15 having a plurality of transverse holes extending at the same  
positions on each of the posts, the support posts extending  
immediately adjacent to each other such that the transverse  
holes are aligned between the posts;
    - two side plates that extend fully between the upper edge  
20 and lower edge at the side edges and press the support posts  
together into a solid unit between the side edges; and
    - a plurality of connecting bolts extending horizontally  
through the side plates and through the transverse holes of  
all of the support posts for holding the side plates against  
25 the support posts and the support posts against each other.

2. The solid shear panel as recited in claim 1, wherein the horizontal overhead structure has a lower surface having a double plate, and wherein the upper edge of the solid shear panel is secured to the double plate mounted with vertical  
5 bolts.

3. The solid shear panel as recited in claim 2, wherein each side plate has a pair of hold down flanges extending perpendicularly from the upper edge and lower edge, wherein  
10 the vertical bolts extend through the hold down flanges.

4. The solid shear panel as recited in claim 3, wherein the support posts are constructed solid wood selected from sawn lumber, laminated wood, and engineered lumber.  
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5. The solid shear panel as recited in claim 4, wherein the side plates are made of a metallic material.

6. A building support method, for supporting an horizontal overhead structure above a base support, using a shear panel having a plurality of posts each having a plurality of transverse holes, a pair of side panels, and using a plurality of connecting bolts and nuts, comprising the steps of:  
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25 aligning the transverse holes of the posts by grouping the posts side by side;

- positioning the side panels alongside the posts;  
extending the connecting bolts through one of the side  
panels, through the transverse holes of the posts, and  
through the other of the side panels;
- 5       securing the posts together by securing each of the  
connecting bolts with a nut;
- securing the side panels to the base support with  
vertical bolts;
- securing the side panels to the horizontal overhead  
10      structure with vertical bolts; and  
          sheathing across the shear panel, covering the posts.
7.      The building structure as recited in claim 6, wherein  
the side panels each have hold down flanges extending  
15     perpendicularly therefrom at each of the upper edge and lower  
edge, and wherein the steps of securing the side panels to  
the base support and securing the side panels to the  
horizontal overhead structure further comprise extending the  
vertical bolts through the hold down flanges.

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